

NEWS SHEET

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2015



ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS GENERAL SERVICE CONFERENCE OF IRELAND



Conor F., started
A.A. in Ireland,
member of
Philadelphia
Group.



Richard P., first
member of A.A.
in Ireland.



Sackville,
worked
tirelessly to
carry the A.A.
message.

The Early Days

Let's Go Back To Sackville.

Alcoholics Anonymous got started in Ireland in 1946. The first group was in Dublin, and after being sober for four months Sackville M. became the groups honourable secretary.

Sackville 1897-1979 was born at Raglan Road, Dublin. His father was a Dubliner and his mother hailed from Roscommon.

Sackville read about AA in the Evening Mail and from the very first meeting he attended at the Country Shop in 1947, he stayed sober. He did secretary at the Country Shop meeting Group and worked hard to insure AA's survival and success in Ireland.

Sackville identified publicity as being central to the well being of A.A. in this country. As part of his efforts to inform the public and alcoholics of A.A.'s existence in Ireland, he wrote continuously to the Evening Mail.

Across we have one of the articles from 1947 which this popular paper printed.

"When it comes to helping alcoholics by mail he is no doubt the world champion."

(AA Comes of Age pg.83)

Alcoholics Anonymous

Sir – May we, through the courtesy of your columns, ask those writing to us for help for themselves or their relatives not to forward any money with their letters. Our help is willingly given free, in return for what we ourselves have derived from A.A. And of course all letters are treated in the utmost confidence. We suggest to large firms that they might find it of value to inform themselves of our work. Many an employer has found himself reluctantly compelled to dispense with the services of a subordinate, who is otherwise an asset, on account of his drinking habits. Such men could be directed towards A.A., and attendance would entail no interference with their work. We would welcome representatives of such firms at our Monday meetings at 8 p.m. at the Country Shop.

– Hon. Sec., A.A.

Public Information

What is Public Information work and why should A.A.'s do it?

Public Information (P.I) in A.A. means carrying the message of recovery to the still suffering alcoholic by informing the general public about the A.A. programme. We do this by getting in touch with any organisation of a public nature whether it be organised or voluntary, which is in position to make known the existence of A.A. and what it can do for the still suffering Alcoholic.

P.I. work is undertaken by members at Group level and at all levels down to the General Service Board of Ireland. The Board will deal with national bodies only i.e. National Newspapers, media, tourist boards etc. The Intergroup, Area and Group P.I. Committees will deal with all the provincial/local newspapers, Independent Radios etc.

At our Reconvened Conference in September, each Intergroup gives a respective Report pertaining to P.I. in each province. Below here are some excerpts from the September 2010 P.I. Reports.

Connaught

The PI function in Connaught has been managed by our PI Committee, meeting before our Intergroup meetings and having a group discussion on what has been happening in our various counties.

The level of active contact with the public has not changed but the willingness of members to serve our PI committees has declined, most of our work has been around schools and the distribution of posters.

Munster

Cork West...The members of the PI committee are continuing to actively engage with the local clergy and gardai who may avail of a meeting as part of their continuous professional development.

Limerick County...The PI Reports from the four Intergroups which were read out at last years Conference were copied to Clare, Limerick City and County PI Committees and found to be very helpful for new ideas.

Ulster

Be sure every library has at least one Conference approved book, e.g. the Big Book, Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions or Living Sober.

Let the fellowship know how to reach out to the hearing impaired. Some members in the Derry Area are taking lessons in sign language.

If a suffering alcoholic never meets an AA member, how is he or she going to find AA?

Leinster

Our PI committee are clear that if we want to be successful in carrying the AA message, this can best be done by a small voluntary effort from a lot of members rather than a huge amount of work from few members. It gives more members the benefits that comes from service work and reduces the negative effect of members rotating out of service.

There are many helpful leaflets and DVD's which are available from our General Service Office, which would be useful in Public Information. And of course we have a Service Handbook devoted solely to P.I. for Ireland.

Alcoholics Anonymous 58th All Ireland Convention 17th-19th April 2015

The Road Back

Great Northern Hotel, Bundoran - Co Donegal

I Had Hoped That You Could Help. . .

Dare we tell others that how we recovered is strictly our own business?

JOHN Y. has got to be the most dedicated and active member of AA I have known in my four years in the Fellowship. What's more, John Y. is my sponsor, and that's why I was so upset about this thing that happened to him.

When I say dedicated and active, I mean John Y. thinks nothing of driving a hundred miles in a blizzard to speak at a meeting, and when he stands up and says, "My name is John Y. and I'm an alcoholic," everyone knows they're going to get the real word straight from the book.

When a newcomer slinks into our meeting, you can bet that John Y. will be at the door and will be the first to stick out his hand and say, "Welcome, friend. My name is John Y."

Then, too, when there's any question about the Traditions and such, John Y. is the man who has done his homework and can give you chapter and verse.

Early on in my AA sobriety, John Y. set me straight on the anonymity tradition. He explained that telling people about your membership in AA--even on a personal, face-to-face basis--is merely feeding your own ego. "God meant us to be sober," he says, "and it's strictly our own business how we stay that way. What's more, if I tell someone I'm in AA and then--God forbid--I ever take a drink, I'm doing a lot of damage to AA."

All in all, there are a lot of people in our group who feel that John Y. is sort of the sticking plaster that holds the whole group together. I'm sure I don't know what I'd do without him, and it isn't just that he's my sponsor.

Now about this thing that happened to John Y. He works for the 29 electric company--some sort of clerical job--I don't know just what. John Y.'s boss is apparently a pretty nice guy. During John Y.'s drinking days, his boss covered for him the best he could, so John Y. never lost his job. After John Y. sobered up, they never talked about it. John Y. naturally felt that his sobriety spoke for itself, and the boss didn't ask any questions--except just once.

That was a couple of years ago when John Y. and his boss ran into each other at the local diner one Saturday morning, over a cup of coffee. The boss sort of fished around about how come John was managing to stay sober, and John Y. made it clear to him, nicely but firmly, that this was strictly his own business. So the boss right away backed off.

Well now, to get down to this thing that has got John Y. so upset. Here's what happened.

John Y. was having a cup of coffee at the diner last Saturday when again in walks his boss. According to John Y., the boss looked terrible--almost like he'd been crying. He sat down next to John Y., and for a while he didn't say a word.

Finally, John Y. says to him, "Mr. Brady, you look like something was on your mind."

"Yeah," says Mr. Brady. "My son."

"He sick?" asked John Y.

Mr. Brady didn't answer right away. Finally he says, "John, it's a problem I had hoped you knew something about--alcoholism."

"Your son got a problem with alcohol?" asked John Y.

"Not now," said Mr. Brady. "He's dead."

Grapevine Jan 1973

Conventions Ireland

Sligo/North Leitrim Area Convention	March 6th- 8th.	The Clarion Hotel, Clarion Road, Sligo. Theme: Honesty
Cork City Area Convention	March 6th- 8th.	The Montenotte Hotel, Cork City. Theme: A New Freedom
Galway East Area Convention	May 22nd- 24th.	Loughrea Hotel & Spa, Loughrea, Co Galway.
Antrim Area Convention	June 19th- 21st.	Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly, Co Antrim.



Conventions Abroad

50th National Convention, Australia	April 2nd-6th.	Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia.
21st International Convention, Greece	May 14th– 17th.	Eden Beach Resort Hotel, Anavyssos, Attika, Greece.
15th International Convention in Trogir, Croatia	June 12th- 14th.	Hotel Medena, Hrvaatskih Zratava bb., Seget Donjii.2218 Croatia.

**80th AA
International
Convention** **July 2nd-
5th,** **2015 Atlanta, Georgia USA.**

Structure of the Fellowship in Ireland

Each Group is entitled to send two GSR's to Area.

Each Area sends four member's as Delegates to Intergroup.

Four Delegates, known as Conference Delegates represent their provincial Intergroup at Conference.

Conference also includes The Board, the Board Secretary, the four Intergroup Secretaries plus our two World Service Delegates.

The Board itself is made up of four Alcoholic Trustee's and three Non Alcoholic Trustee's.

A.A. Groups

Areas

Intergroups

Conference

Board

Alcoholics Anonymous has been called an upside—down organisation because, as the structure chart shows, the Groups are on top and the trustees at the bottom. Bill W. wrote in Concept 1: "The A.A. Groups today hold ultimate responsibility and final authority for our world services...." Then, in Concept 2, Bill made it clear that the Groups "delegated to the Conference complete authority for the active maintenance of our world services and thereby made the Conference...the actual voice and effective conscience for our whole society."

Bill's early vision was of a worldwide structure. However, the conference structures in countries outside of U.S./Canada evolved as autonomous entities.

**The News Sheet is intended as an aid to SERVICE throughout the fellowship in
Ireland.**

Any suggestions as to form and content will be especially welcome.